

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 R

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AF/C:RSTRAND

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O 240059Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 4258 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BUJUMBURA DAR ES SALAAM 23 MAY.

QUOTE

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THIS MSG PASSED BUKAVU AND LUBUMBASHI OY OTHER MEANS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMIT , BARBARA AND KENNETH STEVE SMITH AND CARRIE
HUNTER)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS

REF: STATE 120641

1. GOZ WILL BE ALERGIC TO ANYTHING WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES PUBLICLY
THAT REBEL PROBLEM STILL EXISTS IN ZAIRE. UNTIL
WE HAVE HARD EVIDENCE WE SHOULD RESPECT ZAIRIAN
SENSITIVITIES, AND IF IT DEVELOPS KIDNAPPERS ARE IN
ZAIRE, WE SHOULD REFER TO THEM AS SUCH. FURTHEST GOZ
LIKELY GO WOULD BE TO LABEL THEM "BANDITS".

2. BEST CHANCE TO PERSUADE GOZ BROADCAST STATEMENT WOULD
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PROBABLY LIE IN CASTING IT IN STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN

TERMS AND IN STATING WE ASKING TANZANIA AND BURUNDI
TO DIFFUSE SIMILAR STATEMENT.

3. WE WOULD SUGGEST SOMETHING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"FOUR YOUNG STUDENTS, TWO AMERICAN GIRLS (BARBARA SMUTS AND CARRIE HUNTER), ONE AMERICAN BOY KENNETH STEVEN SMITH), AND ONE DUTCH GIRL (EMILIE VAN ZIN NICQ GERGMAN) ARE MISSING IN THE LAKE TANGANYIKA AREA. IT IS REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN ARMED MEN. ANYONE SEEING THEM OR HAVING ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS IS URGED TO INFORM THE NEAREST LOCAL OFFICIAL OR MISSIONARY".

4. DEPT FYI: EMBASSY EXPLORING WITH AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI POSSIBILITY OF SENDING CONSULAR OFFICER TO KALEMIE ON ZAIRIAN SIDE OF LAKE PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. WE SEE LITTLE UTILITY IN SENDING CONSULAR OFFICER TO AREA IF NO MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE. IN MEANTIME, WE PRESSING GOZ HERE TO MOUNT AIR, LAKE AND GROUND SEARCH OPERATIONS. CONSUL BUKAVU CONFIRMS THAT INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM KINSHASA BY LOCAL OFFICIALS TO COOPERATE.

5. WE ALSO ASKING CONSUL LUBUMBASHI AND BUKAVU TO SURVEY ON CONTINGENCY BASIS AVAILABILITY OF MISSIONARY OR OTHER AIRCRAFT FOR PRIVATE SEARCH OPERATIONS AND WE EXPECT HAVEE RESULTS SURVEY LATE MAY 23 OR EARLY MANY 24. UNFORTUNATELY DAO PLANE IS DOWN WITH SERIOUS FUEL LEAK BUT ROUND-THE-CLOCK REPAIR OPERATION IS UNDER WAY AND HOPEFULLY AIRCRAFT WILL BE AVAILABLE SUNDAY, MAY 25. DOES DEPARTMENT WISH US TO MOUNT WHAT IN EFFECT WOULD BE US AIR SEARCH, BEARING IN MIND THAT AREA ON WEST SHORE LAKE TANGANYIKA IS MOUNTANIOUS AND FOREST-COVERED AND CHANCES OF FINDING ANYBODY FROM AIR ARE MINIMAL. INDEED, IT STRIKES ME THAT ONLY WHEN KIDNAPPERS SOMEHOW COMMUNICATE WITH SOMEONE WILL WE HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF LOCATING STUDENTS. I AGREE, THEREFORE, THAT RADIO MESSAGES ALONG LINES PARA 3 ABOVE ARE DESIRABLE AND WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO PERSUADE GOZ UPON RECEIPT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.
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6. DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSES SHOULD REALIZE THAT WE ARE PASSING GIST OF CABLES TO LUBUMBASHI AND BUKAVU VIA RADIO AS WE HAVE NO COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY FOR CLASSIFIED OR UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGES VIA OTHER MEANS.

7. AS FOR COORDINATION WITH EFFORTS FSO'S IN KIGOMA (PARA 3 BUJUMBURA 0330), WE HAVE NO GOOD IDEAS OTHER THEN

OBVIOUS POINT THAT AS SEARCH DEVELOPS WE SHOULD
ENDEAVOR ESTABLISH RADIO NET, INCLUDING LINKS
FROM OUR PEOPLE, WHEREVER THAY MAY BE, AND KOGOMA.

8. FINALLY, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPT CALL IN
TANGANIAN, ZAIRIAN AND BURUNDI AMBASSADORS JOINTLY RPT JOINTLY
TO IMPRESS UPON THEM IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED FULL COOPERATION
FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IDEA WOULD BE REINFORCE PRESSURE
ON CAPITALS, PARTICULARLY KINSHASA, TO TAKE
SEARCH SERIOUSLY AND TO MAKE REGULAR RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE121985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/E:ESHIPPY:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0777
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750519/aaaaaquh.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 120641
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS
TAGS: CASC, PINS, KE, US, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVE), (HUNTER, CARRIE)
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006